

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 05261 151129Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5261

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SW, AR
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS
AND POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CASE

REF: (A) STATE 269187, (B) BUENOS AIRES 8442

1. DURING CALL BY EUR/NE DIRECTOR ROBERT FUNSETH ON FONMIN SODER ON DEC 13, LATTER EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATE FOR US COOPERATION AND EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS AND STATUS OF DUAL NATIONAL DAGMAR HAGELIN WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN JANUARY 1977 IN BUENOS AIRES AND HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE (REFTELS). (EARLIER, MFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERG SHAD EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS SIMILAR APPRECIATION. THYBERG SAID HE UNDERSTOOD HAGELIN'S CASE WAS ONE OF ONLY 16 ON A LIST PRESENTED TO GOA BY MRS. DERIAN DURING THE SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO ARGENTINA. THYBERG SAID GOS ASSUMES HAGELIN IS NO LONGER ALIVE BUT WISHES TO HAVE THIS TRAGIC CASE WOUND UP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.)

2. ALSO DURING SODER-FUNSETH MEETING, FONMIN REFERRED TO SWEDISH MEMBERSHIP IN INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, RECOUNT-
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 05261 151129Z

ING THE EXTENSIVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO GOS MEMBERSHIP, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION OVER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCED DETERMINATION TO EMPHASIZE HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA WITHIN INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS IDB. MRS. SODER SAID SWEDEN HOPED TO COOPERATE MOST CLOSELY WITH THE US IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY WITHIN IDB. SHE ADDED THAT SHE UNDERSTANDS US POLICY NOW IS TO OPPOSE LOANS OF ANY

KIND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND TO SUPPORT LOANS TO ARGENTINA ONLY WHEN LATTER CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT PROJECTS FUNDED WILL REACH AND BENEFIT THE POOREST IN THAT COUNTRY. SEVERAL ACTIVE POLITICAL GROUPS AND MEDIA IN SWEDEN CONTINUE TO MONITOR IDB LOAN POLICY CLOSELY, MRS. SODER SAID, AND GOS FINDS US CURRENT RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE TWO DICTATORSHIPS MORE HELPFUL THAN IN PAST. SHE CONCLUDED THAT IN HER OPINION, IDB AND BILATERAL LOAN ASSISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON THE FEW DEMOCRATIC REGIMES IN THAT AREA, E.G., ON JAMAICA. SHE ADDED THAT SHE HERSELF BELIEVES THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE, ONE SHOULD NOT REFUSE AID TO POOR PEOPLE IN GREAT NEED, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LIVE UNDER A DICTATORSHIP; SHE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION OFTEN SAW THESE MATTERS IN BLACK-AND-WHITE TERMS AND OPPOSED ANY AID AT ALL TO GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERED OPPRESSIVE.

3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MRS. SODER ALSO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO FUNSETH FOR HIS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE RECENT STANSAAB AIR-TRAFFIC-CONTROL CONTRACT MATTER. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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